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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF STANISLAW PILAWKA
ON YOUTHS' TASKS IN POLISH AGRICULTURE

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[The following report of Stanislaw Pilawka, Chairman of the ZG ZMP (Zarząd Główny Związku Młodzieży Polskiej, Main Administration of the Union of Polish Youth), was given at the Ninth Plenum of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party), held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.

The report was given at the plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44.]

The report given by Comrade Bierut has eloquently outlined the campaign being waged for building the foundations of socialism in our country and raising the living standards of the working masses, as specified in the plan.

The task of the ZMP (Związek Młodzieży Polskiej, Union of Polish Youth) is to give maximum assistance to our party in bringing to the masses, and particularly to the youth, the deep implications of the tasks contained in the theses and the report given by Comrade Bierut. In the villages, we have about 3,200,000 youths of ZMP age. However, among these youths, and particularly among those on the individual peasant farms, there is evidence of some indifference toward matters concerning agricultural production, of a lack of initiative, and of a disbelief in the possibility of developing their capabilities and productive forces in agriculture and in making social progress. For this reason, the AMP must expand further in its mass-political and popular-scientific activity by mobilizing the rural youth for maximum active participation in agricultural production. This is a great and difficult task. Youth is self-sacrificing and easily aroused, but limited mobilization and inadequate ideological indoctrination characterizes our work in the villages. We reach the majority of youth in the villages only occasionally, generally during a campaign. The percentage of rural youth organized in the ZMP is too small. ZMP groups exist in only half the total number of villages.

This is the principal reason for our weakness in the villages and for the poor participation of the youth in agricultural production. During the last 3 months, we have made certain special efforts. We have accepted almost 30,000 rural youths into the ZMP; however, we have not reached the turning point in the expansion of our organization in the villages.

Our work among the producers cooperatives does not look much better. According to our data, of the 66,000 youth working in the producers cooperatives only 25,000 belong to the ZMP. There are only 4,890 [ZMP groups] in 4,807 cooperatives. There are no ZMP groups in the remaining 4,000 cooperatives. The situation is a little better in the state farms, where we have 3,390 ZMP groups. More than half of the youths working on the state farms belong to the ZMP. Without a considerable expansion of ZMP organizations in the villages we cannot assist the party in mobilizing the large mass of rural youth. We must expand the ZMP organizations in the villages considerably during the next few months, above all in villages where there are no ZMP groups at present and where there are no basic party organizations.

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In order to fulfill these tasks, it is necessary for our activists operating in the villages to obtain at least a basic knowledge of agricultural science. Our wojewodztwo and powiat administrations will popularize scientific methods of work in their youth work. In this they will utilize the existing staffs of agronomists, zootechnicians, and other agricultural service workers. They will likewise utilize advanced students of the secondary agricultural schools and higher agricultural schools. We will organize for youth correspondence and self-education courses in agriculture, fruit growing, breeding, etc. Above all we will organize groups of young Michurinists [micurinowcy], who will work on experimental land plots. Members of these groups should coordinate their work with scientific research laboratories and experimental institutes of agriculture.

A broad, daily program of explaining the economic tasks in the villages and their significance to our national economy, and the extensive popularization of agricultural science, should arouse enthusiasm among the youth for work in agriculture and pride in the results obtained. It will, at the same time, show the youth on the individual farm that the producers cooperative is an advanced form of development which can (1) provide him with the opportunity of using modern agricultural machinery and of obtaining high vocational qualifications, (2) provide a cultural life in the villages, and (3) provide greater opportunities for development among the rural youth.

The ZMP should organize various courses to increase agricultural knowledge; analyze the earnings of the individual boys and girls at the meetings; and recommend individuals to the secondary and higher agricultural schools for training as mechanics, tractor operators, and veterinarians, taking into consideration their enthusiasm and capability. We are going to develop a love for work in the health service among the rural youth. Youth who love to work in the villages and who have a rural background will be sent to nursing schools, schools for medical assistants, schools for midwives, etc. In this way, we will supply the villages with dedicated health service workers from those who grew up in the villages. We must use this approach so that when possible a person who left the village to go to school will return to it upon completing his studies.

Our wojewodztwo and powiat administrations should organize among outstanding youth activists meetings popularizing agricultural knowledge, Michurinist youth, and leaders in breeding and crop raising on state farms and producers cooperatives, with the participation of the experimental professional cadres, for the purpose of exchanging experiments and work methods. We will have meetings and discussions between the youth on the individual peasant farms and the youth of the producers cooperatives and state farms. We will teach the youth how to efficiently campaign against the activity of the enemy kulak. We will increase the participation of the members of the ZMP in the social commissions, in people's councils, and in cooperatives supplying the villages with goods for everyday use.

It is clear that this can occur only through a considerable increase in all activities of the entire ZMP staff organization and by activating a properly prepared volunteer program. This struggle to overcome the existing carelessness and deficiencies in the work with the rural youth will also be integrated with our cultural and educational efforts to raise the cultural level of our youth.

To fulfill these tasks we are mobilizing, in addition to the staff organizations of ZMP and the SP (Sluzba Polsee, Service for Poland), over 7,000 youths-agronomists and ITS mechanics. We can receive considerable assistance from students from the higher schools and secondary agricultural schools. We have 12,990 ZMP members in the ITS; they are employees and workers with considerable experience who should play an important role in the activities of the ZMP.

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in the villages. To work with the rural youth, particularly during the approaching winter months, we must utilize the more than 7,000 existing rural reading rooms which are sometimes empty during the season. We will also utilize rural libraries.

We should also expand ZMP work in the sports groups, which contain 380,000 members in 12,037 groups. Through these groups, we have the possibility of using tens of thousands of activists, and of setting in motion powerful means of influence. It is clear that we are not going to be able to do this without more assistance from the party organization than heretofore, and without strengthening the party control of the ZMP.

Although after meetings of the wojewodzkie party committee secretaries and ZMP chairmen, the party organization showed more interest in the work of the ZMP, this interest, particularly in the villages, is still inadequate and rather sporadic. The meetings in the powiat showed that the secretaries do not meet the youth, are insufficiently acquainted with the problems and the desires of the youth, and do not always respond to their grievances. They teach too little and boss too much.

As a result, the political work of the ZMP in the villages is superficial. This is evident in our campaign for the fulfillment of the grain collections. The ZMP youth, most of them full of enthusiasm and impressed with the harm done by kulaks to small and medium peasants, gave most of their attention to putting up so-called wall newspapers and posters, but gave too little attention to other methods of mobilizing the youth to campaign for the realization of compulsory deliveries.

While increasing our work in the villages, we should likewise increase our efforts in industry and make the youths working in the plants conscious of the economic tasks for the next 2 years. We will also have to give much more attention to our work with youth in light industry, consumer-goods industry, small-scale industry, and commerce. About 112,000 youths of ZMP age are employed in light industry under the Ministry of Light Industry and about 250,000 are employed in commerce. Our efforts will be directed toward increasing youth participation in the innovators and rationalizers movement, in work competition, in drives for the economy of raw material, and in improving the quality of manufactures. Also, we will devote more effort to work with youth in state, cooperative, and handicrafts manufactures. We will raise the standards of consumer services by adapting the work of young people to the needs and preferences of the consumer. We will simultaneously expand our work in heavy industry, in mines, and in foundries, in the direction of maximum participation of the youth in production.

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